

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the following paragraphs:

[0009] ~~FIG. 3 is a flowchart~~ FIGS. 3 and 4 illustrate flowcharts showing a speech verification ~~method~~ methods in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0049] FIG. 4 illustrates several features discussed next. In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, the intelligibility monitor 250 may calculate an estimate of intelligibility based on the user's message containing critical or important information (402). Critical or important information may be, for example, names, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, telephone numbers, etc. that may be a critical portion of the user's message and need to be sufficiently intelligible when played back and/or processed by a human and/or a machine. The intelligibility monitor 250 may use known grammars and/or word spotting techniques to detect or identify words or segments of the user's message that may contain important and/or critical information.

[0050] If the intelligibility monitor 250 recognizes or identifies important information in the user's message, the intelligibility monitor 250 may calculate an estimate of intelligibility for the recognized important information (404). The calculated estimate of intelligibility may indicate the degree to which the important information is intelligible. The intelligibility monitor 250 may compare the calculated estimate of intelligibility for the recognized important information with an intelligibility threshold. In this case, the intelligibility threshold may indicate the minimum intelligibility level that may be desirable for the recognized important information to be sufficiently intelligible.

[0052] In a further alternative embodiment of the present invention, the intelligibility monitor 250 may employ one or more context-specific or domain-specific libraries or databases (not shown) to verify that the user's message contains words that match with the vocabulary words included in the domain-specific libraries or databases. In this embodiment, the intelligibility monitor 250 may establish an estimate of intelligibility (404) based on, for example, the number of words included in the user's message that appear in the vocabulary of the one or more domain-specific libraries.

[0054] After the intelligibility monitor 250 determines the domain for the user's message, the intelligibility monitor 250 may access the one or more domain libraries (not shown) determined to be the domain of the user's message. The intelligibility monitor 250 may calculate an estimate of intelligibility (404) based on the number of words in the user's message that appear or correlate to terms in the one or more domain libraries (406). The calculated estimate of intelligibility may be compared to a domain-related intelligibility threshold (408). In this case, the domain-related intelligibility threshold may indicate the minimum number of words of the message that also occur in the one or more accessed domain-libraries for the message to be sufficiently intelligible.